premium in the Indian market. This was leading to dumping of such items to the ditriment of the indigenous industry. These factors prompted Government to take the aforementioned measure. At the same time, with a view to providing relief to the exporters, a flexibility provision has been made for the import of the Sensitive items including plastic items allowing excess upto 20% in quantity within the overall CIF value of the value-based advance licence. These Sensitive items, importable on the basis of VABAL's, are also available from indigenous manufactures through the Advance Release Order System.

Amendment to the Maternity Benefits Act, 1973

*160. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Maternity Benefits Act, 1973 disallowing maternity leave to women, working in private factories and establishments etc. who have more than two children; and

(b) if so, whether Government have been cognizant of the reaction of the women organisations and particularly of women below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) A suggestion for restricting maternity benefit to women workers upto two children only is under examination of Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Consumer Redressal fora in the Country

1219. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ti is a fact that enough publicity is not being given to the consumer redressal fora existing in various parts of the country;

(b) if not, in what manner consumers are enlightened about the consumer fora;

(c) the number of consumer fora existing in the country and the number of grievances filed with the fora during the last two years;

(d) the number of cases cleared finally and the average time taken in clearing each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of steps to give enough publicity to the Consumer Redressal Fora set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. A number of booklets, brochures have been printed and distributed free of cost to consumers/consumer organisations in all parts of the country. The Ministry is also broadcasting a regular weekly AIR programme "Apne Adhikar" on all the commercial broadcasting stations which imparts knowledge on consumer redressal fora. Similarly, Ministry is also publishing the quarterly journal entitled "Upabhokta Jagaran" which is being distributed to all the consumer organizations, liberaries etc. free of cost.

(c) and (d) As per information available with the Government, 452 District Fora are functioning in the country. A statement indicating the number of cases filed in various districts fora and disposed of since inception is enclosed (*See* below). The Ministry does not keep record of average time taken in clearing a case as it varies from case to case depending upon the nature of case, workload with the District Forum etc.

Statement

Name of the State	District Forums			
	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Since Inception	Pending	Period Ending
Andhra Pradesh	43688	32512	11176	30-6-93
Arunachal Pradesh	53	45	8	30-9-93
Assam	867	214	662	31-3-93
Bihar	11667	6142	5525	30-6-93
Goa	878	701	177	31-12-92
Gujarat	20926	10307	10619	30-6-93
Haryana	14864	10688	4176	30-9-93
Himachal Pradesh	3651	1936	1715	30-6-93
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	14411	5067	9344	30-6-93
Kerala	32393	18073	4320	30-6-93
Madhya Pradesh	15538	8732	6806	30-6-93
Maharashtra	26062	16337	9725	30-6-93
Manipur	395	373	22	30-6-93
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	96	76	20	30-9-93
Nagaland	—	—	—	—
Orissa	6458	3831	2627	30-6-93
Punjab	7487	3975	3512	31-3-93
Rajasthan	39326	27557	11769	30-9-93
Sikkim	8	4	4	30-9-93
Tamil Nadu	5959	1405	4554	30-6-93
Tripura	131	63	58	31-3-93
Uttar Pradesh	43277	25179	18046	31-3-93
West Bengal	10472	1547	4137	31-3,93
A&N islands	62	63	1	30-6-93
Chandigarh	4212	1615	2597	30-9-93
D&N Haveli	15	5	10	30-6-93
Daman & Diu	12	4	8	31-12-92
Delhi	18,061	11161	6900	30-9-93
Lakshadweep	13	11	2	30-9-93
Pondicherry	634	555	79	30-9-93

Maximum retail prices of consumer items

1220. **SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 5th June, 1993 captioned "Maximum retail price nothing but a farce";

(b) whether it is a fact that maximum prices printed on the consumer items are mostly inflated ones;

(c) whether complaints have been received by Government in this regard;